ACCOUNT

OF THE

DYING EXPERIENCE

OF

Mrs SARAH HOLMES,

Who departed this Life, SEPTEMBER 19, 1785,
Aged 38 Years.

IN A LETTER TO A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

ZECH. xiv. 7.
It ſhall come to paſs at Evening-time it ſhall be Light.

JOB x. 12.
Thou haſt granted me Life and Favour, and thy Viſitation, hath preſerved my Spirit.

LUKE i. 45.
Bleſſed is ſhe that believed for there ſhall be a Performance of thoſe Things which were told her from the Lord.

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In a few Days will be publiſhed,

The SECOND EDITION of

THE EXPERIENCE OF

Miſs Sarah Wight.

Sold by T. WILKINS, 45, Cow Lane, Snow Hill.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE DYING EXPERIENCE OF Mrs Sarah Holmes.

Rev. and dear Sir,

AS you have condeſcended to deſire an Account of the LORD's gracious dealings with the Soul of the late Mrs H. I chearfully embrace the firſt Opportunity of offering it to your Acceptance.

On my firſt Interview with her, which was Saturday, *Auguſt* 20th, ſhe lamented to me that her family had hitherto engroſſed too much of that Affection and Time which ſhould have been devoted to, and ſpent in, the Service of God. Seeing that ſhe was much waſted by her Diſorder, (a deep Decline) and, in all Probability, could not

long ſurvive; I took occaſion, with all poſſible Plainneſs and Faithfulneſs, to point out the Wretchedneſs of all Mankind by Sin, the utter impoſſibility of Acceptance with God, upon the Ground of our defective Obedience to his holy Law, the Neceſſity of Faith, in the Blood, Righteouſneſs, and Interceſſion of Immanuel, God with us, in Order to our obtaining an Intereſt in his Salvation; and that without the quickening and ſanctifying Influences of God the Holy Ghoſt, imparting a new Life, and implanting vital Principles of Holineſs, we could never ſee the Face of God to our Comfort.—And after praying with, and for her, I took my Leave for that Time.

Being particularly engaged in Duty on the Lord's Day, it was not in my power to viſit her, which I much wiſhed to do: But upon ſeeing me on *Monday* Evening, ſhe addreſſed me thus, "O Sir, I longed to ſee you that "I might tell you what the Lord hath done "for me; I have ſeen and heard unuttera-"ble Things, ſuch as convinces me I have "not long to remain here; for, (added "ſhe with great Emotion) none can know "what God hath ſhewn me, and live here "long

"long."—Fearing leaſt that ſubtle Adverſary, who can even transform himſelf into an Angel of Light to deceive, ſhould have taken Advantage of her bodily Weakneſs, I could not but conſider it my Duty, with all Tenderneſs, to remind her, That notwithſtanding that precious Promiſe, *And it ſhall come to paſs afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit*, &c. Joel ii. 28, 29 had reference to New Teſtament Times, from the expreſs Application which was made of it, by the Apoſtle *Peter*, (*Acts* ii. 17, 18.) to the Day of Pentecoſt; yet we ſhould do well to remember that ſuch extraordinary Viſitations from God to his People, ever produce the deepeſt Humiliation of Heart before him, and tend to make Jeſus, and his finiſhed Salvation, very precious in our Eyes.—Far from being offended with the Admonition, ſhe expreſſed her Hope, that the Event would ſhew, it had produced that Effect in her; and earneſtly deſired to ſee me as often as poſſible.

When I viſited her on the following *Wedneſday*, ſhe informed me, "That during the "two laſt Days, and particularly in the "Night-ſeaſon, her Communion with God "had been peculiarly ſweet; that her Heart

" was at Reſt, reſpecting her Family and " Friends, and now ſhe had nothing to de- " ſire, but that the Lord would complete " his Work, and then take her to himſelf, " and the ſooner he was pleaſed to do it the " better, for ſhe longed to be gone;" and it ſeems ſo deſirous was ſhe to depart, that ſhe was at firſt averſe to taking Medicine, leaſt it ſhould be a Means of detaining her the longer here.

One pleaſing Evidence which ſhe gave of a change of Heart was, her Delight in the holy Scriptures, and in Prayer, ſo long as ſhe was able to read; the Bible was her conſtant Companion; and her Son has ſince informed me, that after her Sight failed, by her particular Deſire, he read the chief Paſſages of the New Teſtament to her.

In the Courſe of ſome cloſe Converſation with her, ſhe ſaid with Admiration, " What " a Difference there is between my former " and my preſent view of Things; and many " whom I once thought right, I now fear, " were awfully wrong: God hath ſhew- " ed me this! And yet, can you think it," added ſhe, " though I am ſuch a Sinner, " Satan has been attempting to fill me with

" Pride."

" Pride." —— Upon another Occaſion, while I was reading the 3d Chapter of *John*'s Goſpel to her, ſhe ſuddenly interrupted me, and ſaid, Satan was ſorely tempting her to diſbelieve what I had read. After a few Moments Pauſe (in which ſhe appeared to be earneſtly wreſtling with God in Prayer) ſhe cried out, " What! will the Lord let " me Periſh, after what he has ſhewn me, " impoſſible!" and then expreſſing her Confidence in the divine Goodneſs, begged me to proceed.

Her deſires of Deliverance, though ſtrong, were, I truſt, ſubmiſſive, and that her Sufferings were great is evident, for I am informed the Bone came literally through her Skin. For ſome Days previous to her Departure, ſhe took but little Notice of thoſe who were around her: Being incapable of ſpeaking, ſhe was deſired by a Friend, to give him a Sign if all was well, upon which ſhe lifted up her Hands and ſmiled.—After being in the Pangs of Death from *Saturday* Evening until *Monday* Morning, *September* 19th, ſhe left this Vale of Tears, with a ſettled Smile upon her Countenance, the Effect, I truſt, of that inward Peace which none

none but God can impart, and died deeply regretted as a Wife, a Mother, and a Friend.

There is yet another Circumſtance in the Experience of our departed Friend, which is deſerving of Notice as matter of Encouragement to thoſe who are entruſted with the Education of Youth; it had been her Privilege to be put under the Tuition of a religious School Miſtreſs, who not only read the Scriptures to her little Ones, but frequently prayed with them; and the Impreſſion which her Mind received in Conſequence of this, never wore off, but was a Means of keeping her from many Vanities and Follies to which young Perſons are naturally prone.

May ſuch Diſplays of divine Mercy, not only animate our Hope, but in the Hand of God, make us more than ever mindful of the Apoſtle's Exhortation, "Be ye ſtedfaſt, unmoveable, always abounding in the Work of the Lord; foraſmuch as ye know that ye labour not in vain in the Lord."

Oct. 5, 1785.

I am,
dear Sir, yours, &c.

J. A. K.